

## INSIDE



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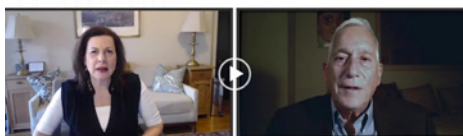
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Shawn Miller

Historian Jay Driskell elbow bumps Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden outside the Manuscript Reading Room on June 1.

## Reading Rooms Once Again Welcome Researchers

A sense of celebration surrounded the reopening of four Library reading rooms.

BY WENDI A. MALONEY

Last week, for the first time in more than 14 months, the Library opened its doors to researchers. They came in the dozens – both familiar faces and newcomers to the Library – to engage with an assortment of collections. One photographed Sanborn fire insurance maps; another examined Colonial-era legal documents; and yet another scrolled through microfilmed newspaper issues for stories documenting historical U.S. railroads.

They all had one thing in common, however: They were delighted to find themselves in a Library reading room. And the staff who served them seemed no less enthusiastic.

"I missed being with the collections and excitement of the reading room," said Lara Szypszak, a Manuscript Division reference librarian who served patrons on June 1, the first day of reopening. "There's something about it that is impossible to replicate in the virtual world."

In addition to the Manuscript Reading Room, the reading rooms of the Law Library and the Geography and Map and Serial and Government Publications divisions welcomed researchers starting on June 1. The reopening is the first step in the Library's plan to gradually resume on-site public services as the COVID-19 pandemic diminishes. Reading rooms, along with

READING ROOMS, CONTINUED ON 7

# NOTICES

## DONATED TIME

The following employees have satisfied eligibility requirements to receive leave donations from other staff members. Contact Lisa Davis at [lidav@loc.gov](mailto:lidav@loc.gov).

Lynette Brown

Stephanie Jefferson

## COVID-19 UPDATE

The Health Services Division (HSD) continues to monitor Library staff members with symptoms, clinical diagnoses or positive test results associated with COVID-19. On June 3, HSD announced that it had received one new report of symptoms of COVID-19 or confirmed cases since its previous COVID-19 announcement on May 27. Most employees reporting symptoms are not diagnosed with COVID-19, but, out of caution, the Library is monitoring all reports of symptoms.

More information on the Library's pandemic response: <https://go.usa.gov/xdtv5> (intranet) or <https://go.usa.gov/xdtvQ> (public-facing staff webpage)

## NEW WOMEN'S FORUM

The Library of Congress Professional Association has launched a new [Women's Forum for Growth and Networking](#) to support women's careers and foster a sense of community. Planning meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of every month at 2 p.m. Click [here](#) to join the next meeting, and click [here](#) to join the forum's listserv. Events are open to all. Questions? Contact Jocelyn Shapiro at [jshapiro@loc.gov](mailto:jshapiro@loc.gov) or Stacey Devine at [sdev@loc.gov](mailto:sdev@loc.gov).

Afternoon Tea in the Copyright Office

**FIND YOURSELF IN...**

# Lamp Design

*and Useful Articles*

**Thursday, June 17, 2021**

**12:30 – 1:30PM**

An Online Event  
► [Register here](#)



Pour a cup of tea and join us!

**A Copyright TALKS EVENT**



Copyright Teas seek to help staff deepen their knowledge about copyright and the Office's activities through information sharing and discussion.  
Questions? Email Alicia Morris at [amro@copyright.gov](mailto:amro@copyright.gov). Closed Captioning Provided.

## UPDATED EMERGENCY GUIDANCE

The Security and Emergency Preparedness Directorate has made available [phase 2.2 of its protective action guidance for responding to building emergencies](#). The updated guidance includes detailed information about social distancing during emergencies, evacuation assembly areas and best ways to contact emergency services.

Staff are encouraged to download the Joint Emergency Mass Notification System (JEMNS) mobile app on their personal devices and register to receive text alerts. For instructions and more information, go to <https://go.usa.gov/xs5mR>. Learn more about the Library's emergency guidance: <https://go.usa.gov/xs5mQ>.

Questions? Call (202) 707-8708 or send an email message to [epp@loc.gov](mailto:epp@loc.gov).

# GAZETTE

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

[loc.gov/staff/gazette](http://loc.gov/staff/gazette)

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### MISSION OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The Library's central mission is to engage, inspire and inform Congress and the American people with a universal and enduring source of knowledge and creativity.

### ABOUT THE GAZETTE

An official publication of the Library of Congress, The Gazette encourages Library managers and staff to submit articles and photographs of general interest. Submissions will be edited to convey the most necessary information.

Back issues of The Gazette in print are available in the Communications Office, LM 143. Electronic archived issues and a color PDF file of the current issue are available online at [loc.gov/staff/gazette](http://loc.gov/staff/gazette).

### GAZETTE WELCOMES LETTERS FROM STAFF

Staff members are invited to use the Gazette for lively and thoughtful debate relevant to Library issues. Letters must be signed by the author, whose place of work and telephone extension should be included so we can verify authorship. If a letter calls for management response, an explanation of a policy or actions or clarification of fact, we will ask for management response.—Ed.

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### GAZETTE DEADLINES

The deadline for editorial copy for the June 25 Gazette is Wednesday, June 16.

Email editorial copy and letters to the editor to [mhartsell@loc.gov](mailto:mhartsell@loc.gov) and [wmal@loc.gov](mailto:wmal@loc.gov).

To promote events through the Library's online calendar ([www.loc.gov/loc/events](http://www.loc.gov/loc/events)) and the Gazette Calendar, email event and contact information to [calendar@loc.gov](mailto:calendar@loc.gov) by 9 a.m. Monday of the week of publication.

Boxed announcements should be submitted electronically (text files) by 9 a.m. Monday the week of publication to [mhartsell@loc.gov](mailto:mhartsell@loc.gov) and [wmal@loc.gov](mailto:wmal@loc.gov).



# Expanded National Book Festival to Offer New Experience

The 10-day festival will feature Michael J. Fox, Diane von Fürstenberg, Roxane Gay and more.

This year's National Book Festival – the 21st – will invite audiences to create their own festival experiences from programs in a range of formats scheduled over 10 days from Sept. 17 through Sept. 26. The spectacular lineup includes authors, poets and illustrators from America and around the world.

This year's festival offers a variety of ways to access programs, allowing attendees to tailor their experiences and interests to their preferred mode of participation. Festival content will be available online through videos on demand, author conversations in real time and live question-and-answer sessions, as well as through a new podcast series, a national television special and some in-person, ticketed events at the Library. Local libraries, community centers and attendees are encouraged to host watch parties and other community events in their local areas.

"This year, we are inviting Americans to create their own National Book Festival experiences by offering free, high-quality programs in a variety of formats that they can mix and match according to their interests and schedules," said Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden. "Our stellar cast of authors, conversations on timely topics, and new ways to engage will allow everyone to enjoy a personalized National Book Festival how, when and where they want to experience it."

The theme of this year's festival, "Open a Book, Open the World," will be the starting point for many conversations with authors, often discussing how their own books open up new worlds for their readers.

A new offering in 2021 will be a



Photo credit

This year's lineup of authors includes Michael J. Fox (clockwise from bottom left), Silvia Moreno-Garcia, Roxane Gay and Kazuo Ishiguro.

series of podcast interviews with festival authors produced and distributed by NPR.

A sampling of this year's National Book Festival lineup includes:

- **Kacen Callender** on "The King and the Dragonflies," winner of a National Book Award.
- **Michael J. Fox**, the actor, activist and founder of a foundation dedicated to finding a cure for Parkinson's disease, on his memoir, "No Time Like the Future: An Optimist Considers Mortality."
- **Tana French**, the widely praised crime writer, on her latest novel, "The Searcher."
- **Diane von Fürstenberg**, the world-renowned fashion designer, on "Own It: The Secret to Life."
- **Roxane Gay**, author, editor, advice columnist and social activist, on "The Sacrifice of Darkness," the new graphic novel she co-authored.
- **Annette Gordon-Reed** on "On Juneteenth," a story of the day's importance to history from a native Texan.
- **Kazuo Ishiguro**, recipient of the

Nobel Prize in Literature, on his new book, "Klara and the Sun."

- **Chang-rae Lee**, whose new novel is "My Year Abroad," in conversation with Viet Thanh Nguyen, who has written a sequel to his Pulitzer-winning "The Sympathizer," called "The Committed."
- **Silvia Moreno-Garcia** on her genre-bending horror novel, "Mexican Gothic," and her most recent book, "Velvet Was the Night," with Sarah Pearse, whose debut novel is "The Sanatorium."
- **Marcus Samuelsson**, superstar chef and restaurateur, on "The Rise: Black Cooks and the Soul of American Food: A Cookbook."
- **Isabel Wilkerson** on "Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents."

More information will be released in the weeks ahead on the [National Book Festival blog](#).

The National Book Festival is made possible by the generous support of private- and public-sector sponsors who share the Library's commitment to reading and literacy, led by National Book Festival Co-Chair David M. Rubenstein. ■

# IT Security Protects Library Against Advanced Threats

OCIO's multilayered cybersecurity framework detects and contains attacks.

BY SAHAR KAZMI

With the news full of ransomware strikes and cyberattacks, lots of questions have been asked about whether the Library is at risk and what is being done to ensure that staff and data are protected from these growing threats.

Bottom line up front: "The Library has built a defense in depth using the best IT security tools available," said Sean Lang, the Library's chief information security officer, noting that nearly 200,000 cyberattacks are stopped every year. "From our new firewall to software that runs on every Library computer, we have tools in place that block known attacks and ensure that any unusual activity is immediately flagged and quarantined."

The Library's multilayered IT security approach starts at the edge of the network. With the introduction of multifactor authentication, it is significantly harder for bad actors to gain access to the Library network posing as a Library employee. At the same time, every website being visited and every email received by a Library user is scanned by state-of-the-art software using an extensive database of known viruses and other malicious code, combined with the latest artificial intelligence and machine learning algorithms to recognize both known and potential threats. With those protections in place, the vast majority of cyberattacks are stopped cold before they ever reach a Library employee.

Inside the Library, the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) maintains an advanced automated scanning tool, which analyzes every interaction across the Library network – from a Word document being saved to a PDF

being opened. That scanning allows a baseline of normal activity to be recognized and pinpoints any anomalies that require additional investigation. Meanwhile, an advanced antivirus tool, loaded on every Library computer and server, works across the network to proactively analyze cyberattack patterns and identify malicious files or actions that might appear on an individual computer, allowing any localized security breach to be quickly identified and locked out of the rest of the Library network.

If malware or its cousin ransomware – software that blocks data access until a monetary ransom is paid – are detected on a computer, the Library is primed to respond without making any payoffs. The infected computer is quarantined and reset, and all information is backed up and replaced from the Library's data storage without the infection spreading beyond the original machine.

"It's important to remember that even legitimate websites, such as news sources like CNN or MSNBC, can be susceptible to malicious pop-ups and malware-laden advertisements, which can infect Library computers," said Lang. "That's why no matter how advanced our IT security practices are, the Library's first line of defense will always be our staff and users."

OCIO urges all staff to remain dil-

igent about avoiding suspicious email links, opening attachments from unknown email senders and downloading any software from the internet. Staff are strongly encouraged to complete their annual IT security awareness training as soon as possible – the deadline is Sept. 17, 2021 – and contact the IT Security Operations Center with any IT security questions or concerns.

With attacks getting ever more sophisticated, the Library is continuously working to enhance IT security. Following best practices from the National Institute of Standards and Technology, legacy Library applications are being modernized, decommissioned or hardened to prevent their use as vectors for attack. OCIO also has begun to transition the Library network to "zero trust" architecture, an advanced IT security model which continuously validates users to ensure that only authorized accounts have access to high-value data.

Recognizing that a united front is stronger, the Library collaborates closely with other legislative branch agencies and regularly shares IT security information with federal partners and intelligence agencies. This routine communication allows the Library to strengthen its cybersecurity efforts with leading government experts and keep up to date on critical IT security information. ■

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## SELECT YOUR ZOOM BACKGROUND

The Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) earlier this year launched the Zoom for Government application. Now, OCIO has released background images, including the Jefferson Building, the Copyright Office and the Packard Campus theater, for staff to use. To change your Zoom background, click "settings" in your Zoom profile and select a photo from the "backgrounds and filters" menu.

More information: <https://go.usa.gov/xs4tb>

Questions? Contact the OCIO service desk at (202) 707-7727 or [ocioservicedesk@loc.gov](mailto:ocioservicedesk@loc.gov).

# Successful Literary Season Concludes This Month

Nobel Prize winner Mario Vargas Llosa will appear in the season's final installment.

BY GUY LAMOLINARA

No less than the future of the human race was the subject of a discussion last month in the National Book Festival Presents series. On May 20, the Literary Initiatives Division of the Center for Learning, Literacy and Engagement (CLLE) presented Walter Isaacson in an interview with science journalist Katherine Eban. The pair spoke about his new book, "The Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing and the Future of the Human Race."

"The Isaacson interview gives us a fascinating look into the male-dominated world of gene research," said Shari Werb, CLLE's director. "I hope Library staff have a chance to hear Isaacson discuss how writing about a person who is still alive allowed him to write what he described as a 'page-turner.'"

The Isaacson program, like all others during the spring season of National Book Festival Presents, was virtual and is available on the Library's [website](#) and its [YouTube channel](#).

On June 24, the season will conclude with Mario Vargas Llosa, recipient of a Nobel Prize in Literature. In a "Behind the Book: Great American Translators" presentation, he will converse with his longtime Spanish-to-English translator, Edith Grossman. Throughout her celebrated career, Grossman has also translated works of other writers such as Gabriel Garcia Márquez, Mayra Montero and Miguel de Cervantes.

Other spring-season highlights staff may want to check out include conversations featuring two-time Pulitzer Prize winner Colson Whitehead and Oscar-winning actor Lupita Nyong'o and

LIBRARY  
OF CONGRESS  
NATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL  
PRESENTS



**KATHERINE EBAN**



**WALTER ISAACSON**

Journalist Katherine Eban speaks with Walter Isaacson in May about his new book on the science of editing genes.

a celebration of the world-renowned comic book artist, writer and publisher Jim Lee for Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

A three-part program on "the talk" – the conversation parents have with their children about race – concluded on May 13 with a live Q&A featuring bestselling children's authors Renée Watson and Adam Gidwitz with editors and publishers Wade Hudson and Cheryl Willis Hudson.

Also in May, during a program titled "The Art of the Memoir," poet Cathy Park Hong and novelist Wayétu Moore, both nominees for the 2020 National Book Critics Circle Award in Autobiography, discussed how their memoirs give voice to history and speak to the present moment.

And just yesterday, as part of the "Made at the Library" series, Paul Hendrickson, author of "Plagued by Fire: The Dreams and Furies of Frank Lloyd Wright," discussed how his book was "made" through his use of the unparalleled collections of the Library.

With the conclusion of the spring literary season, staff from CLLE and across the Library are hard at work planning and executing the myriad details big and small that go into presenting the 21st National Book Festival (see page 3). Following the book festival, the year-round National Book Festival Presents series will resume.

*Guy Lamolinara is head of the Center for the Book and communications officer for Literary Initiatives. ■*

## EXPIRED LIBRARY ID BADGES TO BE CONFISCATED

The U.S. Capitol Police have determined that after June 30, officers will confiscate expired Library identification badges. Electronic access with card readers will also end on that date.

Staff who return on-site after June 30 will be granted one-time access to have their badges renewed. Staff working on-site in the Capitol Hill complex can renew their badges at the Badging Office, LM G-11, on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Expired badges can also be renewed at the Cabin Branch badging station on Mondays until June 28 between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Those requiring 117th congressional ID badges must pick up their badges at the Madison Badging Office. An approved Form 1826 is required for ID badge renewal.



## QUESTION & ANSWER



Latarsha Bullard

### Latarsha Bullard

*Latarsha Bullard is a multimedia production specialist in the Multimedia Group.*

#### **Tell us a little about your background.**

I grew up in Maryland and I attended Central High School in Capitol Heights. Afterward, I attended the University of Maryland, College Park, where I obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in information management systems.

I started at the Library as a clerk-typist in my senior year of high school in 1994 under the work-study program the Library offered at the time. After graduation, I got a job at the Library as an administrative assistant, and I stayed in the administrative field for about eight years. After furthering my education, I applied for a trainee position in multimedia, and that is where I remained. I'm a production specialist in the Multimedia Group, and I now have 27 years of service at the Library.

#### **What does your job involve?**

I capture video for the Library on a virtual platform or use a professional video camera on-site, making sure all the camera settings are right and the room for the particular shoot is set up using lights, audio and other props that

may be needed. If I am tasked as the editor of a job, I will also edit the video and get it ready to be shown on the Library's website or YouTube channel

#### **What are some of your standout projects?**

I have had the honor to be a videographer and editor on some of the greatest shows at the Library. One standout project was the Gershwin Prize program with Garth Brooks – that was a great program, and I enjoyed being involved. I was a videographer on one of the cutaway cameras and I was able to meet Brooks.

The National Book Festival is also an important event for my team every year, and I have been involved as a videographer since the start of the festival. One of the most memorable festivals for me was when I had the honor to run the teleprompter for Stephen King and had the chance to have a brief conversation with him.

Last year, the COVID-19 pandemic

changed how the festival looked for the Library – it was completely virtual – but it did not change how involved my team was. We recorded author talks and interviews using a virtual platform. The festival will be virtual again this year. It has been pretty cool to still be able to see so many great authors despite the pandemic.

#### **What do you enjoy doing outside work?**

I enjoy spending time with my family and close friends. I love going shopping, eating seafood and chilling by nice water scenery during the warm months and soaking in all the sun.

#### **What is something your co-workers may not know about you?**

They may not know that I am a cofounder of a group called Woman, Where Are You? It is a group that was created for women to learn from each other, encourage one another and, most importantly, teach the word of God that helps us in our daily lives. ■

## SCIENTIST SWORN IN ON ANCIENT JEWISH BOOK



Official White House photo by Cameron Smith

Vice President Kamala Harris (right) swears in Eric Lander last week as the new director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. His wife, Lori Lander, holds a rare 1492 compilation of Jewish laws, ethics and traditions Eric Lander selected from the Library's collections. [Read more.](#)

## READING ROOMS, CONTINUED FROM 1

all other Library facilities, closed to the public on March 12, 2020, to reduce the spread of the COVID-19.

To visit one of the four newly opened reading rooms, researchers have to complete a reference interview and make an appointment at least 24 hours in advance, either by telephone or through Ask-a-Librarian. Two appointment times are offered: 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or 1 to 4 p.m. During these times, only a limited number of researchers can be present to allow for social distancing. The Library has also installed plexiglass shields to protect staff and researchers from infection, and everyone in reading rooms must wear masks and follow the Library's health and safety protocols.

None of these measures dampened enthusiasm among researchers. "We had people calling and writing in droves in the two weeks leading up to reopening," Szypszak said. On June 1, a total of 30 researchers visited the four reopened reading rooms. By the end of the first week of reopening, 97 had.

Historian and author Jay Driskell took a 9:30 a.m. appointment on June 1. He is the chief consulting historian for the Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project, and he came to consult the NAACP papers in the Manuscript Reading Room. He has used the papers extensively in the past to locate and document more than 1,000 cases of racial homicide in the South between 1930 and 1970.

Driskell first visited the Library about a decade ago to research his book, "Schooling Jim Crow: The Fight for Atlanta's Booker T. Washington High School and the Roots of Black Protest Politics." Since then, he has used multiple collections, both for his own research and writing and for his clients.

During the pandemic, he put the archival portion of his research on hold, although he continued

to use the Library's collections online for clients. The Prints and Photographs Division collections online "proved invaluable" for this purpose, he said, although "there's only so much you can do with electronic sources."

He explained: "There's ... something about the materiality of documents, about holding [them] in your hands that tells you something about the past you can't get from an online database."

Of the experience of returning to the Manuscript Reading Room, he said, "It really was fantastic to see everyone. ... Even though I don't work for the Library, I still view everyone here as my co-workers."

Johanna Bockman, a sociologist at George Mason University, was equally effusive. "I'm a biased person" when it comes to the Library, she said, noting that she publishes a blog titled "The Library of Congress Is Great."

She visited the Newspaper and Current Periodical Reading Room on June 1 to research microfilmed issues of the historical Washington Afro-American newspaper for a book she is writing about gentrification of Washington, D.C. "It's wonderful" to be back, she said. "People are so helpful."

Writer John O'Connor was in the Newspaper and Current Periodical Reading Room the same day. He came to consult microfilmed newspapers published in New York, Philadelphia and Chicago between the 1880s and early 1900s for information about railroads. He's been visiting the Library for 20 years and, like the others, was glad to return. "People remember me, I remember them," he said.

For some researchers last week, it was their first time to visit the Library. Benjamin Haller, a classics professor at Virginia Wesleyan University, is writing about the influence of Homer's "The Odyssey" on Ralph Ellison's work, and he came to the Manuscript Reading Room to view the manuscript of Ellison's "Invisible Man" and the author's correspondence with scholars.

"It's a huge honor to be able to come," Haller said. "This is my initiation."

Bruce Linskens is an analyst for the law firm Baker McKenzie. He visited the Law Library's reading room to look at British Colonial appeal papers for an international case he is working on. He found both the manuscripts and librarian Nathan Dorn, "who pulled documents out beyond our initial request," very helpful. "I hope I have another project that I can come back," Linskens said.

Reference librarians had a similarly upbeat attitude about the reopening. "It went very smoothly," Julie Stoner, a reference librarian in the Geography and Map Division. "Our patrons were happy to be back, and there was a feeling of celebration ... as well as a sense of finally returning to normal."

Librarian Gary Johnson said Newspaper and Current Periodical Reading Room staff tried to provide the best service possible to patrons while the reading room was closed – he has been coming to the Library twice a week since July 2020 to respond to reference inquiries that required use of on-site resources. "But there are certain types of work that researchers can only do for themselves, so it is really satisfying to see that work begin again," Johnson said.

Elizabeth Osborne of the Law Library said she is likewise pleased to facilitate access to collections, adding that she "missed the serendipitous interactions with ... researchers and colleagues, which only occur when we are all together in the same room."

Next week, the Library will reopen the Performing Arts, Recorded Sound, Prints and Photographs and Moving Image reading rooms. They will operate on a similar schedule of appointments between 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. and 1 to 4 p.m. ■